

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 2, Folder 24

November 13, 1956 -
December 18, 1956

0907

13 November 1956

Dear General Pate:

In accordance with my custom of past years, I am writing to tell you about the Marine Corps birthday party held here at the Commissioned Officers Mess (Open) and which I had the honor to attend--as a guest. The senior Marine officer was Colonel Lawrence B. Clark.

The principal guests were Rear Admiral and Mrs. T. H. Robbins (President, Naval War College), Major General Louis Little, USMC(Ret), and Major General and Mrs. Barney Vogel, USMC(Ret). The latter two are the parents of Mrs. Rathvon McC. (Julie) Tompkins, whose husband, Colonel Tompkins, is on the staff of the Naval War College. I understand that there were a total of 108 Marines and guests present which exceeded last years' number by five.

The affair began with a cocktail party after which the ceremonies incident to the day occurred. At one end of the room was a large red and yellow birthday cake iced with certain of the Marine Corps more famed victories. On the side facing the guests was the name "IWO JIMO" which interested me greatly as the Japanese student at the Naval War College, Commander Kenichi Kitamura, was photographing everything and was noticeably impressed with the whole affair.

Then the colors entered escorted by a guard of ten Marine Officers in full dress blue as was done last year.

After playing the Marine Corps anthem, Colonel Clark read both the Marine Corps basic order for the day and your inspiring message. He then cut the cake and presented the first slice to Major General Little, who although disabled with arthritis rose from his wheel chair and delivered a most effective and moving talk to the Marines and on the Marines. I was quite properly impressed!

0908

13 November 1956

The dinner was excellent. The main course was roast beef washed down with "bordeaux" and, as heretofore, I did well with both items!

Needless to say, I think that these Marine Corps birthday parties are quite wonderful not only in the good will they create among those who have had the honor to be a guest at one of them but also in the "tie" with a long tradition they give all Marines and more particularly the younger ones. "Semper Fidelis"!

With best regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

General Randolph McC. Pate, USMC
Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps
U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters
Washington 25, D.C.

0909

November 26, 1956

Dear Major Eliot:

You cannot imagine my surprise and delight when I received from you a gift of your new book, "Caleb Pettengill U.S.N.", with that very kind inscription.

I have commenced reading it with a critical eye. I find it very interesting indeed and so I have informed many of my friends about it. Some have already purchased copies.

These friends were uniformly surprised at this novel because, although you have written many other works, most of the public think of you as purely a military analyst. Now, they are pleased to recognize you as a novelist as well.

As regards the inscription, I only hope that I measure up to it in some small way.

Once again, let me thank you for the gift of this book and let me congratulate you on your varied talents, many of which you have devoted throughout the years to the benefit of our Country.

With very kindest regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Major George Fielding Eliot
36 Sutton Place (S)
New York 22, N.Y.

0910

27 November 1956

Dear Roy:

I was a little surprised today when Admiral Robbins informed me that his article, "Command Preparedness for Nuclear Warfare", had been rejected by the U.S. Naval Institute for publication in the Proceedings.

Very frankly, I have always felt that the contents of the article were of a sensitive nature and, because of this, had suggested to the Admiral that he have it cleared through the Office of Public Information and all the way up, if necessary. I have heard that Admiral Burke also approved of the article.

I am therefore interested in learning, if you can tell me, why it is that you have rejected this article which, in my mind, is very sound and extraordinarily pertinent.

New subject: I notice that Rip Struble is going to have another meeting of the "Goat" Committee at Annapolis, Md. on the afternoon of November 30th and has suggested that I be there. Evidently, Rip has forgotten about the Army-Navy football game coming up the next day and the fact that I will be coming down from Newport and arriving in Philadelphia on that afternoon (November 30th). I want Rip to act with decision (and he seems to be doing just that) but, if he desires our presence, I do wish he would choose a day satisfactory to us all. You are not a member of this committee but you probably should be in order to represent Hutch, who won't be there.

Outside of that, things are going along very well here, and I presume they are down there.

With best regards to you and yours, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

CDR Roy De S. Horn, USN(Ret)
Managing Editor
U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings
Annapolis, Md.

0911

November 27, 1956

Dear Lil:

I have been wanting to write to you for some time, but I thought I would wait until the situation in this area had clarified.

Today, the Aide brought me your new address, so I am seizing this opportunity to write to you about everything.

In the first place, the Naval War College, and the foreign officers course, in particular, appear to be going along splendidly. It would have been as gratifying to Lynde as I am sure it is to Tommy. Of course, activity in the College has been a little slow during the past few days because of the Thanksgiving holidays. As you surely know, the College closed from Wednesday until Monday. These holidays are a good thing as everyone gets a little bit stale when working steadily on fixed things. Except for that (people getting a little bit stale) I think the College is operating as well as ever.

The social life in Newport is still going along apace. Fortunately for me, there are a number of bachelors in the Foreign Officers Course, which bachelors I have been introducing to the local public with the request that they entertain them when they can. They are happy to do so so this often relieves me of having to go out to dinner.

Daisy O'Donnell had four of these foreign officers to dinner the other night. Having these officers as guests is helpful to the foreigners and very helpful to the local hostesses who get "sick and tired" looking at the same guests (such as me) continuously as happens during the winter months.

Your many friends are constantly asking about you. They want to know what you are doing, how you are doing it, where you plan to live, whether or not you are coming back here next summer, and many other questions too numerous to mention here. The great thing about these questions though is this. Everyone has, and always will have, a great affection for you and Lynde. They repeatedly say that never in their memory has a President of the Naval War College and his wife enjoyed the support of the town people (and notably those of the summer colony) as greatly as did you two. Lest you think this is an exaggeration on my part, I must say I hear remarks of this nature nearly once a week and sometimes even more often.

0912

November 27, 1956

Thanksgiving went along very well for everyone. I spent Thanksgiving dinner principally with the Titus family (Captain Jack C. Titus), who had a very fine dinner and entertained several foreign officers, notably the Japanese officer, Commander Kenichi Kitamura, and the Venezuelan officer, Captain Wolfgang Larrasabal and his wife. I was invited to the Reed's home (Verner Z. Reed) for cocktails but I was unable to make it because of the Titus dinner so I therefore wrote Mrs. Reed a note. I also visited with the Van Beuren's. Everybody was very friendly and everything was very happy, so I feel that the fear of war in the Middle East has diminished somewhat in the minds of the local public.

The College "cabaret" came off about as usual and was as successful as it ever had been. I had twenty-eight guests for this affair and they were in "convulsions" the entire time. Some of the officers are real comics! and, of these, the Japanese commander was not least by any means. He acted the part of the son of Lieutenant Pinkerton and the Japanese girl in the play "Madam Butterfly". However, in the "cabaret" they made a slight modification and changed the name to "Madam Flutterby". The Japanese commander was a scream and the whole place was in a great uproar. He had some false teeth which he stuck in his mouth, making his face look worse than ever (alike the American concept of a Japanese). Apparently, he sang a song (not in the show but afterwards at a dinner for the "cast" of the play) and I understand that he was even funnier then than when on the stage!

The Robbins' have been working pretty hard to entertain these foreigners and have given three dinners, I think, inviting the local people, certain of the foreigners, and certain U.S. Navy officers, all of which went off admirably.

I am going down to the Army-Navy football game on Friday. During my stay in Philadelphia I will be the guest of the Commandant FOURTH Naval District (RADM McLean) at the pre-game luncheon which he sponsors. It should be a lot of fun and I look forward to a Navy victory. On the other hand, it may rain or snow. I cannot complain too much about this, however, because in the past few years we have had lovely weather.

Today, Admiral and Mrs. Yarnell and Ruth Thomas were guests of the Naval War College because they have loaned to the College some paintings of old Navy ships. A little scene was made about them. Admiral Robbins gave a luncheon and, all in all, it was very successful. Admiral and Mrs. Yarnell were very moved and I think all of us fortunate

0913

November 27, 1956

enough to be present were equally so. They are fine people!

There isn't much to report about at the present time. It is raining here and has been snowing slightly but, all in all, we have had fair weather and a late Fall and are hoping that our winter this year will not be anywhere nearly as bad as last year's. It is difficult for things to be good all of the time, but I should think that it is equally difficult for them to be bad all of the time.

I hope things are going well with you. I have a lot of close friends around that area whom I would like to see some day. I hear that Don Beary, for example, is not too well. Rumor had it that he was going to lose a leg. I certainly hope he did not. I have always been very friendly with him and liked him quite well here at the College.

Let me wish you all the happiness in the world in your search for a new home. I certainly think you are wise to be in Coronado at present. It is near to your childhood home, many of your friends are there, and the weather is uniformly delightful.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mrs. Lynde D. McCormick

0914

November 27, 1956

Dear Ruth:

This letter is to tell you of how much all of us enjoyed being present at the ceremonies incident to the loaning by you and the Yarnells of certain paintings and other items to the Naval Museum of the Naval War College. All of us were quite pleased with everything and we hope you were likewise.

I have been somewhat surprised since to learn that you had stated that you had had chicken pox in the Presidents House when you were very young, and that Mrs. Yarnell had indicated that she had been born there. The reason for this surprise is that I personally had no knowledge that the building had been there for more than a few years. I have been looking through the files to see if I could discover the history of the house and I certainly haven't found anything yet.

Do you think that you and the Yarnells could think this thing over and provide me with some information concerning the house, which information I will give to the Naval War College? Do you know, for example, where it came from originally--the rumors are that it was moved there; who was the President when you were there; and how did it happen that your family were there? I have looked over the history of the past Presidents of the Naval War College since the beginning (1885) as I thought that possibly Admiral Thomas was one of them, but I cannot find that he was.

You see, we are endeavoring all the time to build up the story of the War College; in fact, for some time, we have had people working, on and off, on a history of the War College. Cyril Judge worked

0915

November 27, 1956

on it for a time, but nothing really concrete has as yet appeared. Perhaps, if you can provide this information, it will be helpful.

Once again, let me tell you of how much I enjoyed the whole affair yesterday, and of how much I appreciated the kind thought which inspired it; i.e., your loaning of these paintings, etc., to the Naval War College.

With best regards to you and to the Yarnells, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Miss Ruth Thomas
62 Ayrault St.
Newport, R.I.

*Daughter of ADM THOMAS
SISTER IN LAW of ADM YARNELL*

0916

4 December 1956

Dear Jack:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 28th. I was very happy to send you the tickets for the Army-Navy football game and, in fact, I have already received a check from Whitey Taylor relative thereto (which, by the way, you sent to me). This is the old story of a "stitch in time saves nine".

I was very sorry that I didn't see you at the Army-Navy football game. After speaking to you on the telephone I called Rear Admiral McLean's (Commandant FOURTH Naval District) office but was informed by his secretary that both the Commandant and his Aide were out of town and that therefore she could take no action. However, she did say that since Admiral Radford had refused the invitation she thought it unwise to send one to you. I mentioned the above to a senior Philadelphia Navy League member. He said that next year he would see that you were invited, that you should have been invited, and that it was too bad that Admiral McLean didn't have the word.

I thought that the game was poorly played by the Navy and that, despite fumbles, the Army played with a desire to win and with pep and enthusiasm. The Navy, on the other hand, played as though it was just another football game and whether they won or lost was not too important. I think that Admiral Smedburg was correct in refusing the Cotton Bowl bid.

I spoke to Tommy Robbins about the Navy League convention in New York to be held on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of May. I assure you that he is unusually enthusiastic about it, wants to help in any way possible, and thoroughly agrees that the top commanders of World War II should be here at the Naval War College. I pointed out to him that the days in question and which you have mentioned--Wednesday, Thursday and Friday or the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of May respectively--make it rather difficult for the Naval War College to be the first one to receive these officers. Therefore, I recommend, and Tommy concurs, that the fifty officers be invited to assemble first at the Submarine Base, New London, on Sunday (April 28th) and that on Monday (April 29th) the Commander Submarine Base, New London, show them around as he desires and then send them over here by bus or car. We would then have them on Monday evening and all of Tuesday (April 30th). Then

0917

4 December 1956

they can depart for New York on Tuesday evening by rail or on Wednesday morning from Quonset by air.

The Naval War College does not feel that it should have anything to do with the transportation arrangements--that this would necessarily be a function of the Navy League--but we do feel that when they are here we would definitely have a responsibility for them and one which we would enjoy.

I hope that, by these thoughts, I am not putting any road-blocks in your way; the fact is that we here do want to help. The only change from your plan is the assembly of the officers at the Submarine Base, New London, prior to arrival here. We think that this is the correct procedure also because the guests should be better able to receive what we have to offer here after being oriented over at the Submarine Base.

Outside of that, I am very impressed with what you are trying to do. I think a few more Bergens around would be a great help to our Navy, to the Naval Reserves, and to the Navy League.

By the way, I am reminded that Joe Sullivan attended the Navy League meeting in New Orleans last month and seemed to think it was very successful. I haven't heard whether or not you were there, but I can quote Joe as saying it was quite successful. I presume they will be looking Joe over again for promotion presently; I certainly hope he makes it this time.

With best regards to you and to your family, and with thanks for your interest in the Navy, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

RADM J. J. Bergen, USNR
Graham-Paige Corporation
Forty Wall Street
New York 5, N.Y.

0918

28 November 1956

Dear Bill:

I suppose that you have completed your tasks in so far as you can and have already submitted your report to the whole Cordiner Board.

However, if you will observe the clipping from the Newport Daily News which I am enclosing herewith, you will notice that it indicates some of the problems with which our personnel are concerned.

My Chief Quartermaster gave me this clipping and pointed out that the basic monthly wages of an "able seaman" (underlined in red) are greater than the basic monthly wages of a Chief Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy. Of course, he admitted that he has an additional allowance of \$77.10, but he also recognized the fact that these "able seamen" also have allowances of one kind or another.

I don't know whether you will be at the Army-Navy football game but, if you are, I hope that I shall sit near you; if you are not, let me wish you all the happiness for the coming Christmas season and tell you how glad all of us in the naval service are that you are handling our end in this very vital problem.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Admiral W. M. Fechteler, USN
Room 3D1043
Pentagon

0919

December 7, 1956

Gentlemen:

Please send one box each of your Gift No. 60
(Capistrano) to the following addresses:

- ✓ 1. Rear Admiral and Mrs. R. Earle, Jr.
Quarters A, U.S. Naval Station
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 2. Rear Admiral and Mrs. J.C. Daniel
Wellington Avenue
Newport, R.I.
- X 3. Mr. and Mrs. Crawford Hill
"Elm Tree Cottage"
336 Gibbs Avenue
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 4. Mrs. Duncan Douglas
80 John Street
Newport, R.I.
5. Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Holmsen
Annandale Road
Newport, R.I.
- X 6. Mr. and Mrs. Archbold van Beuren
Paradise Avenue
Middletown, R.I.
- X 7. Mr. and Mrs. George Henry Warren
118 Mill Street
Newport, R.I.
8. Rear Admiral and Mrs. C.D. Andrews, Jr.
"Land Fall", Brenton Road
Newport, R.I.
9. Mr. and Mrs. G. Bogart Blakely
"Tusitala", Honeyman Hill
Middletown, R.I.
10. Lord and Lady Camoys
"Stonor Lodge", Bellevue Avenue
Newport, R.I.
- X 11. Mrs. Guy Fairfax Cary
"Elm Court", Bellevue Avenue
Newport, R.I.

Mr. Charles P. Towner

Mr. & Mrs. Charles P. Towner

0920

December 7, 1956

12. Commander & Mrs. H.G. Cushing
"The Ledges", Ocean Avenue
Newport, R.I.
13. ~~Mr. and Mrs. C. Mathews Dick~~
~~"Clever Patch", Bowery Street~~
Newport, R.I. No
14. Captain and Mrs. A.H. Douglas
58 Kay Street
Newport, R.I. ✓
15. Mr. and Mrs. Barclay Douglas
Ridge Road
Newport, R.I.
- X 16. Mr. and Mrs. Gurnee Dyer
Wapping Road
Portsmouth, R.I.
17. Mrs. Edward C. Kalbfus
"Restmere", Miantonomi Avenue
Newport, R.I.
18. Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy King
"Indian Springs", Mooreland Road
Newport, R.I.
19. Commodore and Mrs. H.B. MeCleary
"Twin Beeches", 38 Catherine Street
Newport, R.I. ✓
20. Mrs. Reginald Norman
"Belair", Old Beach Road
Newport, R.I.
21. Mrs. C. Oliver O'Donnell
"Cave Cliff", LeRoy Avenue
Newport, R.I.
22. Lt. Colonel and Mrs. C.D.L. Pepys
"Holly House", Berkeley Avenue
Newport, R.I.
23. Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Phelps
"Slate Hill Farm", East Main Road
Newport, R.I.
24. Mr. and Mrs. Ottavio Prochet
"The Waves"
Newport, R.I.
25. Mr. and Mrs. Verner Z. Reed, Jr.
"The Orchard", Narragansett Avenue
Newport, R.I.

0921

December 7, 1956

26. Mr. and Mrs. John W. Richmond
"Seaward", Cliff Avenue
Newport, R.I.
27. Mrs. Harold A. Sands
155 Rhode Island Avenue
Newport, R.I.
28. Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. West
"Lowlands Cottage", Bellevue Avenue
Newport, R.I.
29. Mr. Gustave J.S. White
28 Greenough Place
Newport, R.I.
30. Mr. and Mrs. Norman O. Whitehouse
"Lansmere", Webster Street
Newport, R.I.
31. Mrs. Andrew C. Wilson
"Ayrault House", 45 Catherine Street
Newport, R.I.
32. Mrs. Louis Bruguiere
"Wakehurst", Ochre Point
Newport, R.I.
33. ~~Captain and Mrs. H.M.S. Gimber, Jr.~~
~~66 Kay Blvd.~~
Newport, R.I.
34. Captain and Mrs. Jack C. Titus,
233 Tuckerman Avenue
Middletown, R.I.
35. Commander and Mrs. Howard Cole
2 Sunset Hill
Middletown, R.I.
36. Commander and Mrs. Roy S. Belcher, Jr.
Quarters 2-C, Fort Adams
Newport, R.I.
37. Chief Quartermaster and Mrs. Samuel Trembath
103 Champlin Place
Newport, R.I.
38. Yeoman First Class and Mrs. D. Pefferkorn
137-A Admiral Luce Street
Newport, R.I.
39. Yeoman Second Class and Mrs. J. A. Hine
115-C Lexington Street
Newport, R.I.

Handwritten notes:
Mrs. & Miss George W. ...
Hawthorne Ave
Newport, R.I.

Handwritten note:
Indian Ave
Newport, R.I.

Supx

0922

December 7, 1956

40. Mrs. R.P. Altemus
Bellevue Court
Newport, R.I.
- X 41. Mrs. Stevens Wiman
Ocean Avenue,
Newport, R.I.
- X 42. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Frazer
"Mare' Haute", Ocean Avenue,
Newport, R.I.
43. Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel P. Hill
"Bois Dore'", Narragansett Avenue
Newport, R.I.
- X 44. Mr. Cyril B. Judge
Webster Street
Newport, R.I.
- X 45. Mr. and Mrs. Harvey S. Firestone, Jr.
Narragansett Avenue
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 46. Mr. and Mrs. John Payson Adams
"Idle Hour", Hazard Road
Newport, R.I.
47. Rear Admiral and Mrs. Thomas H. Robbins, Jr.
Presidents House, U.S. Naval Station
Newport, R.I.
48. Rear Admiral Henry Eccles, USN(Ret)
101 Washington St.
Newport, R.I.
49. Mrs. Paul Bastardo
Oakwood Terrance,
Newport, R.I.
- ✓ 50. Vice Admiral and Mrs. S.A. Taffinder No
20 Sea View Avenue
Newport, R.I.

Please place with each gift one of the enclosed Christmas cards.

A check for \$_____ to cover the purchase of the above
_____ gift boxes is enclosed.

Very truly yours,

R. W. BATES,
Rear Admiral, USN(Ret)

Pasa Del Oro Rancho
P. O. Box 1004
Modesto, California

0923

December 7, 1956

Dear Joe:

On two or three occasions recently you have sent me cards indicating your plans and your movements. I have enjoyed receiving them, was very happy to note that you are in good shape, and that your visit to New Orleans had been successful.

I have given Bergen the dope on you and invited his attention to the fact that you would be presently--I don't know when--appearing before the Selection Board, which I hoped in this case would show a helluva lot better judgement than they have shown in the past.

I don't know whether you know it or not, but Bergen was very ill a few months ago. He had gone out to the Mayo ~~Brothers~~ Clinic at Rochester, Minn., and had asked for a physical checkup and, having received it, was found to have some disease of the intestines which was apparently very serious and probably cancer. After the operation, the doctors said they were satisfied they had gotten it all out. Mr. Dulles seems to have run into a similar proposition.

Bergen is in battery now and, in fact, went to the Army-Navy football game with Admiral Radford, for whom he gave a dinner in New York the other day. I wasn't there; in fact, I wasn't even invited, so I have reproved him for traveling in high places and forgetting the "middle

I don't know whether or not I am going to California this year. However, I am now looking into the matter and I may go out for a week. I have so much to do here that I am a little reluctant to depart for that length of time. I may be there and, if I am, don't be shocked, as I certainly will look you up.

I went to the Army-Navy football game. Everything was very pleasant, excepting the playing of our team. They seemed slow and even sluggish, and I thought they didn't show much "will to victory". Perhaps they had it, but it didn't show. Perhaps we require Frank Leahy to attack our Navy team as he did the Notre Dame team and for the same reason. There was actually no quarrel in my mind between Leahy and Brennan; it was just a scheme to get the "soft" Irish again into the "fighting" Irish! It nearly succeeded!

0924

December 7, 1956

Things are going along well here. The weather is good for this time of year and has even been better than that. My work is progressing slowly, but I hope to have a new volume (Volume III) published this coming summer. Meanwhile, I should be interested to know whether you plan to come to the Naval War College this coming year.

With best regards and with many thanks for everything, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

CDR J. J. Sullivan, USNR
111 Sutter Street
San Francisco, California

0925

10 December 1956

Dear Roy:

Thank you very much for your letter of December 3rd relative to (a) Admiral Robbins' article, and (b) the "Goat".

I appreciate the lengths to which you went, and I understand the situation quite well as regards the article. However, it might be well to inform you that the substance of the article, which was submitted to the Naval Institute, was so submitted by the President of the Naval War College at the direct request of the staff and of the Atomic Energy boys at Sandia. Unfortunately, the article which he submitted to you is different to a degree, and noticeably so at the beginning, from the speech he gave here to the Student Body. This was so because a good portion of the preliminary remarks were either Secret or Top Secret and had to be deleted. He was "pressured" to submit the article to the Saturday Evening Post; this, I understand, was the recommendation of the Sandia boys, but he chose to submit it to the Naval Institute.

I realize, of course, that you are not on the Board of Control and have no say in the matter. I have always understood that. On the other hand, it should be possible to get some ideas why articles are not accepted and I think, in this case, it was important to know something about it. I have told Admiral Robbins that the reason the article was not accepted--I wrote to you at the request of Admiral Robbins--was because it wasn't what they felt they wished for the Proceedings.

I read the original address and I thought it was excellent. I did not read the version which was sent to you, however.

Now, I would like to come into the subject of the "Goat".

You are perfectly justified in not approving the "Goat". I don't think you would be a man of character at all if you went along "like a sheep", so I appreciate not only your lack of approval of the "Goat" but also your right to disagree with others thereon.

I don't see, though, why you attack the Class for having a goat, and charge it with being a symbol of ridicule and immorality. That is of no concern to us; the goat is the mascot of the U.S. Naval Academy and what we are trying to set up in bronze is the best example of the goat possible. In fact, our "Goat" has certain characteristics, it seems to me, of a Rocky Mountain goat. I therefore suggested that, since today's goat bears little resemblance to the goat of our day, and since the goats are constantly being bred into something else, it probably wouldn't be too difficult to develop by breeding a goat to match a little more closely

0926

10 December 1956

what our sculptor visualizes and which the whole board viewed with delight.

I think that it is all right to have orthodox gifts, such as church windows and items of that nature, but, every now and then, a Class does well to get away from the "humdrum" gifts and to produce something at variance with the accepted routine.

You aren't the only one who is kicking--"Ted" Breed is very upset and has written me a "hot letter" criticizing "Rip" because the sculptor wished to place the "Goat" on a high pedestal. Ted feels that the "Goat" shouldn't be more than about four feet from the ground; that is, four feet from the ground to the top of the pedestal.

It is my hope that when you see the "Goat" being set up down there or perhaps the plaster model first, you will be inclined to modify your view against it.

Once again, let me say that we are not conceiving something new for the Naval Academy; we are merely placing in bronze the mascot of the Naval Academy which, whether we like it or not, has been approved over the many years by the Superintendents and Midshipmen alike.

Outside of that, I appreciate your thoughtfulness in looking up the matter mentioned above for me, although I must say I didn't approve of your last remark--that I could give your remarks on the "Goat" to Hutch if I wanted to. I am not here to collect data critical of or in favor of anything. If you wish to tell Hutch about it, you can write to him.

Let me wish you a very merry Christmas. I know you work hard down there, are doing a wonderful job, are not only deserving of a very merry Christmas but are taking steps to insure that it will be so.

With best regards to you and yours, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Commander Roy De. S. Horn, USN(Ret)
Managing Editor
U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings
Annapolis, Md.

0927

10 December 1956

Dear Admiral and Mrs. McLean:

This letter is to thank you very much for inviting me to your pre-game luncheon held at your quarters on the Naval Base, Philadelphia. Very frankly, despite the fact that I had arrived there later than I had planned, I had a wonderful time, and met many of my old friends.

I have been attending these luncheons every year since 1946 and I must say that each year I note what I believe to be changes from previous years and changes which are for the better. In your case, I noted that (a) an extra bar had been installed on the front porch--or perhaps you prefer to call it a veranda--which certainly reduced the crowding, (b) many, if not all, of the small tables had been removed from the same front porch which increased the "searoom" and, finally, (c) the piece de resistance of the luncheon had been changed from "beaus" to "stew". I heard many friendly remarks about this from the "old hands" who, like myself, had been a guest before.

I think that you have an excellent post. It seems to me that all of the Commandants that I have known in the 4TH Naval District since the war have thoroughly enjoyed it and that many of them have remained there on retirement. Fortunately, for you and for the Navy, retirement is far off so that all you have to do for now is to determine how well you like the place.

I also think that the Navy is lucky to have you there in that post. I noted that you are wonderful hosts, everyone seemed very happy primarily because you went out of your way to look out for them as did that lovely daughter of yours, and you were gracious to everyone.

0928

10 December 1956

2 I want to thank you very much for including my guests, Mrs. Axel Jonnson and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor, Jr. They enjoyed themselves as much as I did.

I wasn't impressed over the game. I thought that the Navy did not play well--the team seemed to be sluggish and to be lacking in enthusiasm. I think that I understand what Admiral Smedburg was thinking about when he turned down the Cotton Bowl, and I agree with him. I have an unhappy feeling that perhaps the concept--that the apex of the Navy football team's season is victory in the Army-Navy game--was lost this year and that the apex, instead, was the Bowl. Unfortunately, the team had read the press notices thereon.

I should like to commend to you your aide and your secretary who handled things very well indeed, and made everything including entering the Base a very simple matter.

With warmest regards and again with many thanks, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

RADM and Mrs. E. R. McLean, Jr.
Commandant, FOURTH Naval District
U.S. Naval Base,
Philadelphia, Pa.

0929

17 December 1956

Dear Roger:

I have four orders I wish to place with you for Christmas gifts and which I hope you will see fit to handle for me.

First, I would like to choose a silver Christmas gift (something similar to that of last year but, of course, different) for Admiral and Mrs. R. L. Conolly, and which is to be sent to the following address:

President, Long Island University
385 Flatbush Avenue Extension
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Second, I would like a similar but different gift for Rear Admiral and Mrs. Thomas H. Robbins, to be sent to the following address:

Presidents House,
U.S. Naval Station
Newport, R.I.

Thirdly, I should like a silver plate (about \$20.00) with an engraving on it as follows:

"Merry Christmas to Alice
from Vicky, Snowy, Happy
1956"

and send it to Mrs. Alice Fellows, 122 Lovell Street, Windsor, Conn. Of course, the engraving (the manner and location thereof) is left entirely to your good judgement.

Fourth, a wedding gift--probably a Revere Bowl costing about \$20.00 to \$25.00 and sent to Miss Alida Van Laer, Alegrita, 161 Via Del Lago, Palm Beach, Florida.

The cards for items 1, 2 and 4 above are included in this envelope. There is no card for item 3.

I hope that Christmas and the New Year will be all that you hope for. I'm en route to California for about one week, departing here on December 20th.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

Mr. Roger H. Hallowell

R. W. BATES

0930

18 December 1956

Dear Swede and Ibbby:

This letter is to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I would have written this letter earlier but I have been bogged down trying to get some material ready for the President of the College and have had to put off all personal matters.

I am very friendly here with a very good friend of yours, Dr. Keener Frazer of the University of North Carolina. I don't have to tell you he is a grand gentleman and has carved himself quite a niche here and has made many friends. As a result of this we often talk of you both and of the wonderful exponents of the American way of life that you and your family are.

There is a Doctor Manchester from Duke University who has come up a couple of times and I am extremely fond of him also. When you see Keener Frazer you might mention it to him and perhaps he could arrange for you and Manchester to get together. It might be that you would have a lot to give to each other.

You guessed right in your Christmas card. I will be going to California very shortly, that is Thursday morning from Patuxent and arriving in Burbak that afternoon -- from thence I will make my way somehow to San Francisco. I hope to return in about one week. I am only going to the Coast and the family gathers there knowing I have traveled some 3,000 miles they travel the 300 or 500 miles to get there.

We are very interested in the world situation here in the College. There is so much going on it is almost impossible to keep up to date, even reasonably well. I find that since I am working on World War II it is a little difficult to project myself to the present day conditions. One thing is always true -- that is that the proper employment of mental power in the solutions of our problems today will give the same result that similar employment did in past actions. The point that I have been stressing for a very long time is the development of logical thought processes. We are always talking of hardware. Hardware doesn't always win strategic campaigns. The British and French had all the hardware at the Suez Canal but where are they today?

I am very happy to see that you seem to be reconciled to the fact that your children are no longer in the Navy. I hope that the Scott brood around West Point are doing as well as you and they hoped they would, and also that the Kessing brood is doing extremely well.

0931

I hope that you are satisfied with the Navy Goat idea. I have been thoroughly sold on it, otherwise I would not have served on the committee. The other day I got a blast from R. de S. Horn who thinks that it is a disgrace to set up a bronze goat as he thinks it represents something immoral. I told him nothing could be sillier; that the goat is a proper emblem and has been approved by superintendents and midshipmen for many years. I also heard from Ted Breed but he is not kicking about the goat, per se, since the goat is his own idea but he is complaining because the artist is planning to place the goat 7 or 8 feet rather than 4 feet in the air.

There is a little club (called Quendecum) in this town. The name means fifteen but we have about sixty members. Tonight a professor is going to discuss the "Crisis in Nato." I have to introduce him and have made no preparations for it, but there is enough news in the press so I feel that I will make a proper introduction. Last month this group discussed "The Crisis in the Middle East" very successfully. I look forward to these meetings. Don't know if you have such a thing there but you might look into it.

The loss of Lynde McCormick was a very great shock to us all. I wrote quite an article about it and told Hutchinson he could publish any part of it, which he did. The whole thing was a very unhappy affair but I don't think anything could have been done about it. An autopsy showed a disease in the heart and -- even if he had survived the heart attack -- he might never have gotten out of bed.

You Swede and I are more fortunate in that our hearts have signaled to us a little more than Lynde's did and by so doing have done us a good turn.

I feel that my heart is improving to a degree in that so far it has not increased in size. The result of this is that the doctors have now required me to have only one check a year, whereas before I had to have at least two.

It is surprising that we have only one classmate in this area -- Scotty Umsted. At the Army-Navy Game, which I always attend, I found John McCrea, Ted Breed, Stewey Clark, Rip Strubble and C.C. Vickery; not too many. I have almost made it a fetish to go to that game; I don't know why I agree with the Superintendents decision about the Rose Bowl.